7. In view of the fact that quick decisions on viability of chronically sick central PSUs are required to be taken it would be necessary to restore the BIFR to its full strength of 14 members as against the 50 percent existing strength at present.

8. The administrative Ministries of the central PSUs and the trade unions concerned should be associated with drawing up of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and if the performance of a PSU fails short of the levels of performance agreed in the MOUs the Chief Executive and other members of the management of the PSU responsible for poor performance should be asked to quit.

9. There should be a greater coordination among the central PSUs and the healthy public sector units must come to the aid of the chronically sick PSUs and as a matter of policy Government shall give purchase preference to these chronically sick units atleast till they are fully rehabilitated.

10. The public sector enterprises particularly those in the core sector which are essential for the operation of the industrial economy should be made more growth-oriented and technically Viable.

Settlement of PF Claims of Burroughs Welcome India Ltd.

752. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Regional Provident Fund Commissioners of Bombay and Calcutta have not settled the claims of former employees of Burroughs Welcome India Limited, Bombay;

(b) whether in some cases directions of High Courts for expeditious settlement of Provident Fund dues and payments have been overlooked by the authorities; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take against the company for withholding the PF contribution of its employees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Labour Employed in Bidi Manufacturing

753 SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of labour employed by Bidi manufacturers on permanent basis and or contract basis, Statewise;

(b) whether Government have fixed any wage structure for contract bidi labour;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the contract labour in Maharashtra is facing a serious crunch due to higher rate of taxation in comparison with the neighbouring States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c) State Governments notify the minimum wages for bidi manufacture. These wages are applicable to contract bidi workers also.